

Minutes
of the meeting of the

Advisory Board for
Statewide Strategy for Drug Control, Violence Prevention
and System Improvement

November 5, 2003

The Advisory Board for Statewide Strategy for Drug Control, Violence Prevention and System Improvement (Board) held a public meeting on November 5, 2003, which began at 9:30 a.m. at the Division of Emergency Management, Ground Floor Conference Room, 2525 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Mazy, Administrator, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, and organizer of the Board. Dave Kieckbusch, Interim Director, Department of Public Safety, introduced the Board members and read a brief bio of each.

Member present: Daniel Bodgen, U. S. Attorney; Denise Everett, Director, Frontier Recovery Network; Brett Kandt, Exec. Director, Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys; Sheila Leslie, Courts Coordinator, Second Judicial Court; Keith MacDonald, Exec. Secretary, State Pharmacy Board; Dorothy North, Director, Vitality Center; Sharyn Peal, Education Consultant, Dept of Education; Fritz Reese, Assistant Director, Clark County Juvenile Justice Services; Alan Rogers, Chief, Public Safety Technology Division; Ron Skinner, Sheriff, Pershing County; Ron Titus, Director, Admin. Office of the Courts; Frank Sutton, Captain, LVMPD; Maria Canfield, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Richard Varner (for Amy Wright, Chief, Parole & Probation), Assistant Chief, Parole & Probation; Joe Prieto, Department of Corrections (for Jackie Crawford, Director); PK O'Neill, Assistant Chief, Investigations Division (for Phil Brown, Chief).

Members absent: James Enearl, Judge, Justice Court of East Fork Township; Richard Marshall, Assistant Sheriff, Nye County.

Others present: Sandy Mazy, Administrator, Criminal Justice Assistance; Dave Kieckbusch, Interim Director, Department of Public Safety; Linda Blevins, Grants Analyst, Criminal Justice Assistance; Tina Tomasco, Management Analyst, Criminal Justice Assistance; Charise Whitt, Admin. Assistant, Criminal Justice Assistance; Mike Soms, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Mike Soms, DAG, explained the applicability of the Open Meeting Law to this Board.

3. Sandy Mazy provided the Board with a history of the Commission on Substance Abuse Education, Prevention, Enforcement and Treatment (Commission). (See copy of Omnibus Anti-drug Abuse Act of 1988 - Exhibit A). During the last legislative session the Commission was suspended. Because of federal guidelines it is now necessary for this Board to serve as a drug policy board to enable Nevada to continue receiving grant funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant. As such, one of their duties is the preparation of a state strategy which must be submitted to the U. S. Department of Justice within sixty (60) days after the President signs the appropriations bill (usually in January).

The guidelines of the Byrne grant require identification of problems, isolation of greatest needs, examination of resources available to address these needs, and the use of Byrne funds to fill the gaps. Byrne is designed to compliment other agencies and their programs to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing the drug problem. It is, therefore, the responsibility of this Board to develop priority areas of funding for money received from the Byrne grant.

In an effort to focus on problem areas in Nevada, the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance (OCJA) developed a drug and violent crime survey which was mailed to approximately 100 recipients. Linda Blevins delivered a report on the preparation and collection of this survey (Exhibit B). Only 30 responses were received. Although disappointed with the number of responses, the results were calculated and are reported on the attached Exhibit 2. Gaps in service were evident in the reporting. Keith MacDonald suggested adding hospitals and coroner's offices to the distribution list to receive reports on drug-related deaths.

Although the Board believes another survey would be helpful, after discussion, the Board determined because of the time shortage and a lack of money, it would not be possible to send out another survey before developing the strategy.

Linda Blevins explained to the Board the Byrne Grant Purpose Areas (Exhibit C) and indicated the current priority areas as determined by the 2002 Strategy. She further explained it will be the responsibility of this Board to determine whether these priority areas should be changed or whether additions are necessary to cover any gaps in services in Nevada.

4. Sandy Mazy reviewed the Byrne Grant Program Strategy Guidelines (Exhibit D) and the National Drug Control Policy Priority Areas (Exhibit E). She explained the priority areas we select must be tied into these priority areas.

The Board requested a list of the current Byrne funding. A list was distributed to the Board which outlines where the Byrne funds were sub-granted (Exhibit F).

Sandy Mazy reviewed past strategies and explained the new guidelines developed by DOJ. The strategy should be more relevant to what is actually covered by Byrne and will be much less detailed than in the past. This should make it easier for this Board to make recommendations for the strategy. OCJA will be available to provide any information the Board requests.

The Board requested a presentation should be made by each area (prevention, education, enforcement and treatment) to outline what each area provides in the way of services, funding available and where the gaps are. Each presentation will be limited to 15 minutes and will be delivered at the next meeting.

Dorothy North suggested at the next meeting the Board should discuss how the strategy should be presented to the Governor and Legislators.

5. The next meeting will be held December 11, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. at the Division of Emergency Management, Ground Floor Conference Room, 2525 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.
6. There being no public comments, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.